



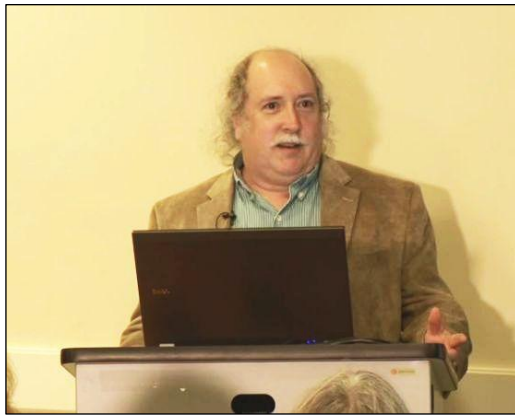
JULY 1, 2016

## Next GSOC Meeting

July 9, 2016 10:00 a.m. at the  
Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida

### Unionists of West Florida

by Dr. Brian Rucker



Our July program will feature Dr. Brian Rucker, Professor of History at the University of West Florida. Dr. Rucker will discuss the Unionists of West Florida.

Just as in the border states, West Floridians took up arms against one another. In the end, the views of the Unionists were finally vindicated - but at a terrible cost of human lives and regional destruction.

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## 11th anniversary of this area's last hurricane

Early in the morning on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005, Hurricane Dennis was barreling toward the local beaches. Many had evacuated. Everyone had prepared.

Residents had learned their lesson not 10 months before when Hurricane Ivan crippled the area. They hung shutters, bought water and bread and fought the still-fresh memories of 1995's Hurricane Opal.

When it was over, they breathed a collective sigh of relief. Damage was extensive, but Hurricane Dennis had, mercifully, passed over the area quickly and caused no serious injuries or deaths.

"If it had come down on its own, it would have been a major, major problem," said Kevin Carvalho, the assistant fire chief for the Okaloosa Island Fire Department. "At this point, it was all about perspective."

Initially, it looked like Dennis was going to slam into Okaloosa County as a Category 4 hurricane. Before it made landfall, it changed its path slightly and lost some power. It hit Santa Rosa Island the afternoon of June 10 as a Category 3 storm with sustained winds just shy of 100 mph and gusts of 121 mph, according to the National Weather Service. The tidal surge was 6-to-7 feet at the eye and 6-to-12 feet east of the storm.

"Whatever made it through Ivan on the north side, Dennis got," recalled Buck Lee, who had just taken over as the director of the Santa Rosa Island Authority at the time. When Lee crossed over the bridge to the island from Gulf Breeze immediately after the storm, he didn't make it far. Downed phone lines covered the roadways. Once they were cleared, he was relieved to see erosion wasn't as big of an issue as with Ivan. The biggest problem was flooding. Lee couldn't drive through the Gulf Islands National Seashore to Navarre Beach, because the storm had washed it out, but the damage was most definitely there as well.

Two sections of the Navarre Fishing Pier were missing and 26 "major structures" were damaged beyond repair, according to a Florida Department of Environmental Protection report.

Much of Gulf Boulevard in Navarre Beach was either in pieces or covered by sand when homeowners were given the first glimpse.

Wind combined with the incomplete dune recovery from Ivan and Opal, set up Navarre Beach for most of its issues, according to Roger Blaylock, who oversees it. "(Dennis) wiped out all the repairs that were on-going," Blaylock said.

When he thinks back on the storm now, it's hard to separate Dennis from Ivan, and he's grateful for it.

Based on a 2015 article by Katie Tammen, Daily News

# John Philip Sousa in Pensacola

by Dean DeBolt, Archivist, University of West Florida

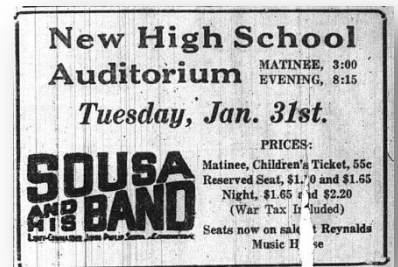


Beginning in the 1890s, Sousa and his Band performed in the South during the winter in their "Dixie Climes" tour. Sousa and the Band first came to Pensacola in 1922, performing at the



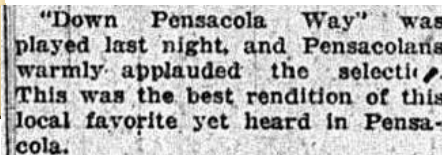
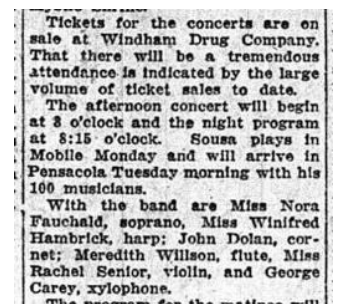
newly-built Pensacola High School. Sousa also attended the Pensacola Rotary Club luncheon at the San Carlos Hotel, telling stories of his tours.

On February 1, 1924, the Sousa Band made their second visit to Pensacola where they again performed at Pensacola High School. Sousa also visited the Pensacola Rotary Club again. On this visit, however, accompanying the Band was a solo flute player, Meredith Willson.



Willson is more known to us today for the words, music, and songs of the play, "The Music Man."

The Pensacola Journal reported that Sousa's Band also played "Down Pensacola Way" a local favorite published in 1923!



**B**rass bands were once an indispensable part of Independence Day celebrations – parades, band concerts, colorful uniforms, and shining brass instruments. March music was a must, and the "March King" was John Philip Sousa.

Sousa began his career playing violin and studying music theory and composition. His father enlisted him in the United States Marine Band as an apprentice in 1868. After departing the band in 1875, Sousa learned to conduct. From 1880 until his death, he focused exclusively on conducting and the writing of music.

He eventually rejoined the Marine Band and served there for 12 years as director. On leaving the Marine Band, Sousa organized his own band. He toured Europe and Australia and developed the sousaphone, a version of the tuba more suitable for marching bands. On the outbreak of World War I, Sousa was commissioned as a lieutenant and led the Naval Reserve Band in Illinois. Following his tenure, he returned to conduct the Sousa Band until his death in 1932. In the 1920s he was promoted to lieutenant commander in the naval reserve, but never saw active service again.

Among the best-known of his 137 marches are "The Stars and Stripes Forever" (designated as the National March of the United States of America by Congress in 1987), "Semper Fidelis" (Official March of the United States Marine Corps), "The Liberty Bell", "The Thunderer" and "The Washington Post".

Wikipedia

Sousa marches are among the favorites for high school bands to play, either while marching or in concert. The outstanding high school band in the Okaloosa County seat has provided thousands of young Okaloosa citizens the opportunity to learn to play and appreciate good music; and, at the same time, to support the school's athletic teams, school spirit, and community activities.

**In this, the band's 78<sup>th</sup> year, we remember how it all started.**

## **The Crestview High School Band**

**By James L. Connor**

In the early part of 1938, several key citizens of the sleepy little town of Crestview decided that it was "time for some culture" so they set about getting a band. A committee composed of School Board member, H. Claude Garrett, Dr. E.A. Fleming, W.E. Duggan, Tom Fountain, Cortez Campbell, Mallory Barrow, and George W. Barrow enticed the assistant band director at DeFuniak Springs, Mr. Romulus Thompson, to accept the directorship of a band that existed only in the pipe dreams of a small group of civic visionaries. So in the spring of 1938, Romulus Thompson came to Crestview to organize a school band in a town still reeling from the late stages of the Great Depression and to work with a school district completely without resources other than the ingenuity of the towns people and eager students who wanted to "make music".

What the Band Committee couldn't know is they picked the perfect man for the job of building a great band where there shouldn't be one. Romulus Hunter Thompson, a native of Water Valley, Kentucky, dropped out of high school to play his saxophone and violin in dance bands that played dance halls and hotels in the Tampa and Miami area in the 1920's. After a short stint with the Tampa Symphony orchestra, Romulus returned to high school when his family moved DeFuniak Springs. At Walton H.S., Romulus was an athlete playing football and baseball while finding time to organize and perform in a dance band.



**Romulus Thompson**

After graduating from Walton H.S. in 1927, Romulus tried a stint as an insurance salesman before marrying Rachel Cawthon of DeFuniak Springs in 1929. Music kept its pull on Romulus and he became the assistant to the band director at Walton H.S. During the depression Mr. Thompson was hired to teach music at other schools in Walton County. Then Crestview called.

Arriving in Crestview in 1938, the new band director put out a call for "students interested in learning how to play band instruments". Before the new members showed up to the first practice, a way to pay for the instruments and music had to be found. The Band Committee and the people of the city did not desert him.

The School District of Okaloosa County was perpetually short of funding and on many paydays the teachers were

paid in script or promissory notes to be redeemed when the School Board had the funds. The local businesses honored these notes for the teachers who did their shopping with them. Romulus and the committee members made the rounds to all of the stores asking that the promissory notes be signed over to the band. In a show of civic support, they all donated the notes assuring, if Romulus Thompson could teach, Crestview would have a band.

Throughout the spring and early summer of 1938, Romulus took an eager group of Crestview students and laid the foundation of what was to become one of the finest high school band programs in Florida. Teaching each student individually, the newly formed Okaloosa School Band soon was able to play simple songs and marches. The people of Crestview must have been astounded when only after a few weeks the band debuted in its first public performance on June 4, 1938, a parade down Main Street followed by a concert on the Courthouse lawn.

As football season approached in the fall, everyone was excited about the aspects of having the band perform a field show at the halftime of the Bulldogs football games. Everyone except the band director. Director Thompson was dismayed when shown the local football field locally known as "Sandspur Field". The name was well given as it was a sand bed full of "stickers" totally unsuitable for a marching band. Games were played in the afternoon as there were no lights on the field and no real seating for the spectators or band. Romulus once again turned to the community for the solution.

After getting a very skeptical principal and football coach to agree to give the band half of the gate if the band could get a real lighted field and stands built, Romulus formed what had to be the first Band Booster Organization in Okaloosa County. Several members of the city, including Claude Garrett, put up the money for field lighting. Mr. Bill Duggan donated lumber from his sawmill for the stands and the trucks to haul it to the field, a farmer donated grass to sod the field, the Baker FFA and several band parents laid the sod and built the stands. Thus, in the fall of 1938, the first night football game in Okaloosa County was played in a newly lighted Sandspur Field in front of 600 spectators who each paid \$1.00 to see the game, sit in the new stands, and watch the first halftime show by any band in Okaloosa County. True to their word, the principal and coach handed over half of the gate receipts to the band and according to Romulus Thompson, "we never had any trouble with money after that."



Romulus Thompson and Crestview were a perfect fit. Adored by his students, the charismatic young director saw his band quickly grow to over fifty members far exceeding all expectations. The band also went from homemade uniforms to a beautiful factory-made red and white West Point cadet style uniform. Many of the musicians blossomed under Mr. Thompson's instruction giving the director the confidence to enter them in their first District Band Festival in the Spring of 1939 in DeFuniak Springs. Playing in class "C", a class higher than they should have been in, the band won the highest rating possible of "first division" in their very first year. This incredible feat was eclipsed the next year in 1940 at the same District Band Festival in DeFuniak Springs.

Still a class "D" band, Mr. Thompson took an incredible risk and entered the band in the highest level, class "A". Stating that he believed the remarkable talent and hard work ethic of the Crestview students would offset their inexperience, the band competed against the larger and much more experienced Pensacola band. The Crestview band put on a sterling performance and received another "First Division" rating. This astounding performance had one negative aspect. The fame of the Crestview High School Band and its incredible young bandmaster, gained the attention of many throughout the state including the administration of the Leon County School District in Tallahassee. Taking advantage of his relatively small salary, Romulus Thompson was hired to start and organize the Leon H.S. Band in Tallahassee. His charge from the Leon County School Board was "just give us a band like Crestview's". Thus after only two years, Crestview's band, through firmly established, was without a leader.

It was a great start to what would become one of the nation's finest programs. Early on, excellence became a trademark of the band dressed in red. Many of the earliest members progressed to become outstanding soloists and competed at the state level. Dale Fleming (cornet), Helen Barrow (twirling), and Carl Garrett (tuba) participated at the state contest. Carl was such an outstanding player he went to Stetson University on a music scholarship and later performed with the famous U.S. Navy Band and the Navy Jazz Band.

Several directors followed Mr. Thompson, none staying more than a few years. Most notable was Mrs. Mayo Ferdon, the only woman director of the Crestview H.S. Band. The decades of the 40's and 50's saw the following directors lead the band: Tom Maddox (1940-41); Charles Engel (1941-42), Mrs. Mayo Ferdon (1942-46), Henry J. Fastoff (1946-48), Russ Auckerman (1948-50), John P. Kendrick (1950-51), Dean Mann (1951-55), Gene Sturchio (1955-56), Ervin Hamme (1956-58).

In the fall of 1958, a star fell on Crestview. Mr. Louis Lindsay, a recent graduate of Troy State University, found his way to the Hub City and started laying the foundation for the greatest "show band" in Florida. For the next nineteen years, Crestview had a love affair with one of the greatest directors ever to grace the concert stage or practice field. Mr. Lindsay took the Crestview H. S. Band to the greatest heights in the band profession and worked tirelessly every day to push the program even farther.

Under Lou's leadership, the Crestview High School Band developed a unique style that excited football crowds everywhere and his concert bands set the standard for what could be achieved at a small school with hard work and dedication. The state of Florida wasn't big enough for what was going on with the band so the citizens of Crestview worked hard along with the band members to send the Crestview Band to perform at the 1964 World's Fair in New York City.

The band continued to grow and trips to Washington, D.C., the Peach Bowl, New Orleans, and the Blue-Gray game in Montgomery only advanced their reputation. A penchant for flawless performances and standing ovations eventually brought about the band's nickname that remains to this day, "The Big Red Machine". Mr. Lindsay was also a leader in his profession and was named president of the Florida Bandmasters Association. Whether a football game halftime; symphonic band concert, or a jazz band performance, Lou Lindsay always had the band ready and always put on a show. Lou Lindsay gave the Crestview High School Band the stability it needed and the dedication the students deserved.

When Mr. Lindsay put down his baton for the last time in 1977, it turned out that following a legend was going to be tough. The band suffered through some turmoil as the cycle of short-term directors started again. Bob Stump was named director and stayed only for a short while leaving in the fall of 1978. An interim director, Bob Lee, was hired along with a director that stayed only one day. Finally the right man for the job showed up and the next great chapter of the "Big Red Machine" began.

Mr. David Cadle, a West Virginia native and Marshall University graduate, came to Crestview in December of 1978 after having been a band director in several schools in West Virginia. Dave quickly warmed up to the sunshine and the people of his new city. After a couple of years of "getting his feet under him", Mr. Cadle oversaw the greatest growth spurt in the history of Crestview and the Crestview H.S. Band. Stable once again under a director who was "here to stay", the band saw unprecedented growth that outstripped even the large increase in the high school.

Marching a solid 250 members, the Crestview High School "Big Red Machine" of today is one of the largest bands in the country and is one of the premier band programs anywhere. The largest school organization in Okaloosa County also boasts the largest booster organization. The band is known internationally and frequently appears across the country. Under Mr. Cadle's leadership, the band has performed at the Peach Bowl in Atlanta, the Cotton Bowl in Dallas, marched in the Kentucky Derby Parade in Louisville, performed at the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade, competed in the Fiesta Bowl Band contest and marched in the nationally televised Fiesta Bowl Parade in Phoenix Arizona. In 2000, the band accepted the special invitation of the Mayor of Chicago to lead the Chicago Christmas Parade.

Now in their sixty third year of service to the City of Crestview, the "Big Red Machine" consists not only of the very visible and powerful marching band, but also has a

complete music program made up of a symphonic band, a concert band, two jazz bands, and a winter guard program. The symphonic and concert bands consistently receive the highest ratings at district and state contest and the jazz bands are always a favorite at many activities throughout the year. The winter guard has received international acclaim by being a perennial finalist in the Winter Guard International World Championships in cities such as Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Dayton, Ohio, and Phoenix, Arizona. Many band students participate annually in the FBA District Solo and Ensemble Festival and several students earn memberships in the very prestigious "All State" Concert and Symphonic bands.

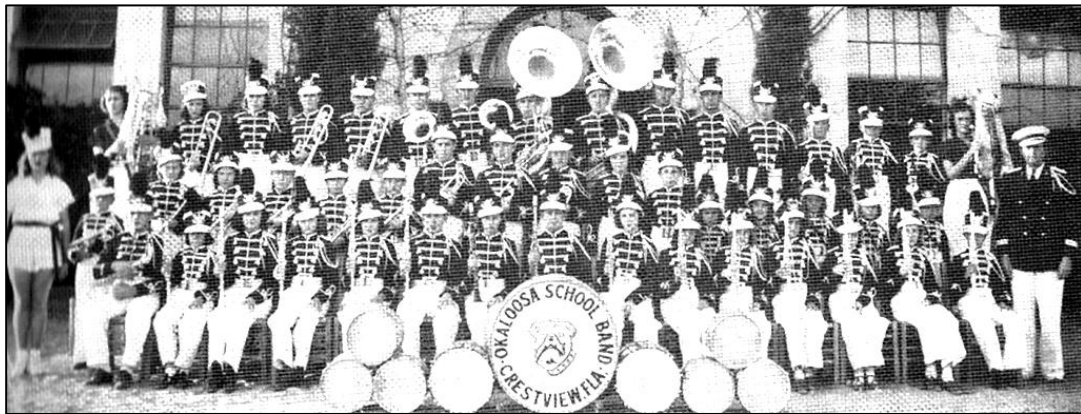
A great deal is owed to the small group of far sighted individuals whose attempt to bring a little culture to Crestview turned into the enduring pride of a small town in Northwest Florida.

**Written in 2001 and Originally Published in  
The Heritage of Okaloosa County, Florida, Vol. 1, 2004**

**Members of the 1938 Okaloosa School Band as shown in this photo: Front row, sitting (left to right): Lamar Garrett, Ruth Luker, Faye Riva Berman, Jean Massey, Jeanette Fountain, John Tisdale, Muriel Outlaw, J. L. Youmans, Majorie Hughes, Nellie Barrow, Betty Steele, Virginia Carr, Sara Angela Ferndon, Betty Hughes, Jackey Stuckey.**

**Second row: Bill Dougan, Earnestine Mapoles, Hazel Luker, Roy Whidden, M. F. Cox, Hayes Hart, Jr. (Mack) McLaughlin, Ferris Youmen, Shelley Mathews, Nellie Hope Fleming, Julian Sampsell, Bobbie Sikes, Olive Osburn, Helen Barrow, Annette Fountain, Claudia Garrett.**

**Third Row: Ann Hagood, Corrine Davis, Sybil Barrow, Maurice McLaughlin, George Barrow, Mancel Smith, Harry Phelps, Sidney Sapp, Carl Garrett, Earl Campbell, Alma Wilson, Mack Keith, Billy Campbell, Dale Fleming, William Tisdale, Margaret Bowers. Director: Romulus H. Thompson, Drum Majorette: Josephine Tisdale.**



## SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

Say you run into a Southerner where you live in the North. And you take a thorn out of his paw or something, and he declares, "I want you to come visit us! And sleep in my bed! Me and Mama will take the cot! And bring your whole family!" "Yes, do come," says the Southern wife. "We would love it." "And Mama will cook up a whole lot of groceries, and we'll all eat ourselves half to death!"

And sure enough, you show up. And the Southerners swing wide the portal, blink a little, and then recognize you and start hollering, "You came! Hallelujah! Sit down here! How long can you stay? Oh no, you got to stay longer than a week; it'll take that long just to eat the old milk cow. Junior, run out back and kill Louisa. Milk her first." "Here, let us carry all your bags oh, isn't this a nice trunk - upstairs and ..."

You are a little disappointed to note that there is no veranda. "Oh, we lost our veranda in the Waw. Which Waw? Why, the Waw with you all. But that's all right."

And you are prevailed upon to stay a couple of weeks, and you yield to the Southerners' insistence that you eat three

huge meals a day and several snacks to "tide you over" - and finally you override the Southerners' pleas that you stay around till the scuppernongs get ripe, and they say, "Well, I guess if you got your heart set on running off and leaving us:" in a put-out tone of voice, and they pack up a big lunch of pecan pie and collard greens for you to eat on the way home, and after you go through about an hour and a half of waving and repeating that you really do have to go and promising to come back, soon, and to bring more relatives next time, you go back north.



And the Southerners close their door. And they slump back up against it. And they look at each other wide-eyed. And they say, shaking their heads over the simplemindedness of Yankees, "They came!"

"And like to never left!"

"And ate us out of house and home!"

**From "Save Room for Pie: Food Songs and Chewy Ruminations" by Roy Blount, Jr.**

# Events and Information of GSOC Interest

## GSOC INFORMATION

### Officers for 2016

President, Sue Basch  
1st Vice President (Programs), Charlene Grafton  
2nd Vice President (Membership), Jon Sheperd  
Treasurer, Phil Hoge  
Recording Secretary, Kathie Sheperd  
Corresponding Secretary, Val Moreland  
Immediate Past President, James Young  
Journal Editor, Kathie Sheperd; Historian, TBD  
Genealogist, Margaret Harris  
Publicity Chairperson, Val Moreland  
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Jim Young

### Addresses

P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175  
Email: [gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com](mailto:gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com)  
Newsletter Editor: [youngjmy@cox.net](mailto:youngjmy@cox.net)

### Meetings and Membership

Regular meetings of the GSOC are usually held at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso, FL, at 10 AM on the second Saturday of each month. There is no admission charge and all are welcome. The meetings are usually followed by an optional Dutch treat lunch at a nearby restaurant.

Annual membership dues are \$24 for an individual and \$35 for an individual and spouse at the same address. If you would like to become a member, want to renew your membership, or want to update your membership record, please go to the GSOC web site and download the membership form.

### The Newsletter

The GSOC Newsletter is usually published on or before the first Friday of each month. Suggestions for articles are welcome. The editor, Jim Young, can be contacted by phone at (850) 862-8642 or by email at [youngjmy@cox.net](mailto:youngjmy@cox.net). Letters to the editor are welcome and may be published.

### The Journal

The GSOC Journal, *A Journal of Northwest Florida*, is published once each year. The 2015 issue, was published and distributed in October 2015.

### The Web Site

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~flocgs>

The site is updated frequently and contains information about future GSOC meetings, minutes of past meetings, copies of the newsletters, articles and items of genealogical and historical interest, and much more.

**Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida**  
**115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso, FL**

**Friday, July 8, 2016 at 12:00 p.m.**

### *"The First 100 Years"* Free History Lecture

Guest speaker, Jim Young will give an overview of interesting people and events that took place in Okaloosa County history from its creation until recent times.

Bring a sandwich and take your lunch break at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida for *History Sandwiched-In*, an informal lunch-time education program. This lecture is free and open to the public.

SPACE IS LIMITED. Please call to reserve a seat. (850) 678-2615. All guests will receive a free American flag.  
[info@heritage-museum.org](mailto:info@heritage-museum.org)

## Time Capsules

Time capsules are collections of everyday artifacts that are sealed off and intentionally set aside for later generations to open. Since the practice first caught on in the 19th and 20th centuries, the International Time Capsule Society estimates that 10,000 of these have been created, but that no one remembers where 9,000 of them are buried.

The world's first planned time capsule debuted in 1876, when New York magazine publisher Anna Deihm



assembled a "Century Safe" at the U.S. Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. The iron box was stuffed with 19th century relics including a gold pen and ink-

stand, a book on temperance, a collection of Americans' signatures, and snapshots of President Ulysses S. Grant and other politicians taken by photographer Mathew Brady.

After being sealed in 1879, the purple velvet-lined safe was taken to the U.S. Capitol and eventually left to languish under the East Portico. Though nearly forgotten, it was later rediscovered, restored and unlocked on schedule in July 1976 during the nation's bicentennial festivities. At a ceremony attended by President Gerald Ford, Senator Mike Mansfield said the opening had honored "the wish of a lady



## We Are All Related! So Get Over It.

Dick Eastman



Politics are saturating the U.S. news media and every four years, news services “discover” that various candidates are related to one another. Last year the news was that Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are 19th cousins. Their common ancestors include John of Gaunt, the duke of Lancaster, and third wife Katherine Swynford at the end of the 14th century — a century before Columbus sailed the ocean blue.

I have one reaction: “Ho hum, so what else is new?”

Of course, most every person in North America whose ancestors have been here for several generations is related to most everyone else in North America whose ancestors have been here for several generations. In fact, you and I are probably related, and we are also probably related to Barack Obama, Donald Trump, Justin Bieber, Celine Dion, and the local mailman.

Let’s have some fun with mathematics. Let’s assume that there is a new generation born every twenty-five years. Your two parents were born about 25 years before you were born, your four grandparents were born about 50 years before you were born, your eight great-grandparents were born about 75 years before you were born, your sixteen great-great-grandparents were born about 100 years before you were born, and so forth back into antiquity. In other words, the number of your ancestors doubles every 25 years as you go back in time.

If you take this back just 1,000 years, you’ll find that you have well over 500 billion ancestors in a single generation.

Obviously, that’s impossible as there are fewer than seven billion people on this planet. While mathematically correct, the practical reality is that you don’t have 500 billion distinct ancestors, but rather a much, much smaller number of ancestors who reappear over and over and over again in your family tree. The reality is that we are all the products of much interbreeding, and with that we have cousins... many cousins. Thousands of cousins... Yes, even millions of cousins. Every one of us has millions of cousins.

Proving all these relationships may be a challenge, but the relationships certainly do exist. You and I are undoubtedly related, and we are also both related to most every politician, Hollywood star, and professional athlete you have ever heard of. We are also related to less notable people, including the truck driver who delivered your furniture and the plumber who fixed the leaky faucet.

I mentioned earlier that most every person in North America whose ancestors have been here for several generations is related to most everyone else in North America whose ancestors have been here for several generations. However, the relationships go much further back in time and cover all areas outside of North America as well. We are related to everyone on every continent although we may have to go back many more generations to prove the connections.

By definition, cousins are two people who share a common ancestor. Joe Chang proved (see [www.stat.yale.edu/~jtc5/papers/Ancestors.pdf](http://www.stat.yale.edu/~jtc5/papers/Ancestors.pdf)) that the number of generations back to the most recent common ancestor in a randomly mating population is very closely approximated by the base two logarithm of the size of the population. For a randomly mating population of a billion people, it takes 30 generations — 750 years — because 2 to the 30th power is a billion. In simpler terms, most of us can find a cousin relationship with most anyone else by tracing our family trees back an average of 750 years.

Of course, we are not all related only to “the good guys.” We don’t get to pick and choose our relatives. I suspect that you and I and Barack Obama and Donald Trump are all related to Adolph Hitler, Genghis Khan, Alexander the Great, Attila the Hun, Charles Manson, and Osama bin Laden. However, we undoubtedly will need to go back more than 750 years to find some of those connections. We are all related. All these news stories are simply proving the point.

As Joseph T. Chang, Douglas L.T. Rohde, and Steve Olson observe in their 2004 paper on the subject of everyone being related to everyone else (*Nature*, Volume 431, Issue 7008, pp. 562-566), we’re all interrelated, and getting more so all the time:

“No matter the languages we speak or the color of our skin, we share ancestors who planted rice on the banks of the Yangtze, who first domesticated horses on the steppes of the Ukraine, who hunted giant sloths in the forests of North and South America, and who labored to build the Great Pyramid of Khufu. [And] within two thousand years, it is likely that everyone on earth will be descended from most of us.”

The next time you read or watch a news story saying that two political candidates are related, turn the page or change the station. That’s not news.

## The Legend of Sam Story, Chief of the Euchees

At least as late as 1956, a simple stone marker stood near the confluence of the Choctawhatchee River and Bruce Creek, inscribed with the words "Sam Story, Cheif [sic] of the Euchees 1832." The Euchees (or Yuchis) are not well documented in history, but some segment or segments of the tribe appear to have arrived in the Florida Panhandle by the end of the 18th century.



John L. McKinnon's *History of Walton County*, originally published in 1911, provides the most detailed account of the Euchee Indians and Sam Story available. It's based on information the author learned from his

father, who was one of the original pioneers of Walton County and may have met Sam Story.

According to McKinnon, Walton County's first European settlers were Scotsmen who originally emigrated to North Carolina around 1810. In 1820, one of these settlers, Neill McLendon, set out for Pensacola along with his extended family and a few friends. Florida was on its way to becoming U.S. territory, and the group intended to make a new start.

After reaching Bluff Springs, Neill McLendon made several trips into Pensacola, where he traded with the remaining Spanish merchants and discussed options for settling in the area. The Spaniards implored McLendon to wait a few weeks for a local Indian chief, Sam Story, to arrive on one of his regular trading trips. They believed he would show McLendon the Euchee Valley, which was reputed to be fine land for settlement.

Indeed, according to the legend, Sam Story did arrive, and invited McLendon to visit his headquarters on the south bank of Bruce Creek, across from what was later called Eucheeanna. When he reached the Euchee Valley, the Scotsman was delighted with what he found, and quickly summoned the rest of his party. He also dispatched a message back to his friends in North Carolina, explaining that he had found an excellent place for settlement. Colonel John McKinnon, John Newton, and a host of relatives and other settlers came down and joined McLendon and established the town of Eucheeanna across Bruce Creek from Sam Story's headquarters. In today's geography, this works out to be about 10-15 miles southeast of Defuniak Springs. Eucheeanna became the first Scottish settlement in territorial Florida.

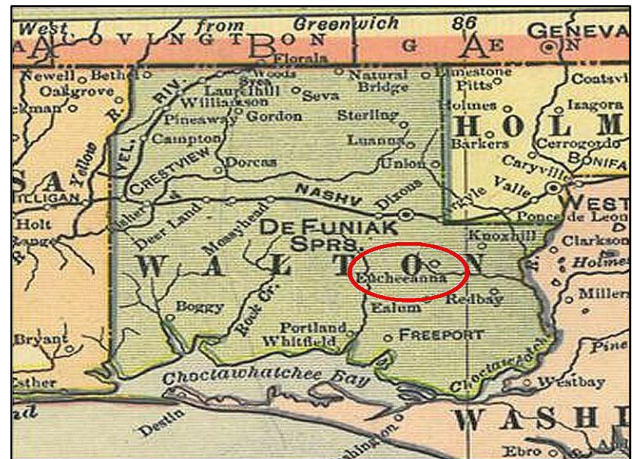
Big changes were on the way as these events developed. Florida became a United States territory in 1821, and Walton County was established in 1824. As Eucheeanna

and the surrounding settlement grew, the area's natural resources were increasingly taxed. Sam Story and others in his tribe began thinking of moving elsewhere in Florida.

According to McKinnon, the chief and a group of scouts traveled as far as the Everglades searching for a new home. After a journey of six months the party returned, exhausted and discouraged. Sam Story, weakened by the voyage and his age, died a short time afterward.

McKinnon says the Scotsmen buried the chief along the banks of the Choctawhatchee and erected a marker of heart pine, saying simply "Sam Story – Chief of the Euchees." It was replaced at some point with the stone marker.

The rest of Sam Story's tribe, the Euchees, are believed to have moved east and south to what is now Volusia County, where they settled and later became involved with the Seminoles. Two of the chiefs, Euchee Billy and his brother Euchee Jack, were captured in 1837 by the United States Army during the Second Seminole War.



Excerpt from a 1902 Cram map showing Eucheeanna near the junction of the Choctawhatchee River and Bruce Creek, Florida Map Collection, State Library.

Eucheeanna grew and eventually consisted of a school, court house, jail, Masonic and Odd Fellows halls, general stores, a sawmill, and a grist mill. The Civil War came to Eucheeanna on September 23, 1864 when federal troops came to raze and plunder on their way to Marianna and Tallahassee.

The first monument in Florida erected to Confederate dead was located in Eucheeanna in 1868 by the Ladies' Monument Association. At that time, Eucheeanna was the county seat for Walton County and remained so until the courthouse was burned by an arsonist in May 1885. The Walton County seat was then moved to Defuniak Springs and the monument was later moved there as well.

<http://www.floridamemory.com/blog/2015/06/02/the-legend-of-sam-story/> and the Walton County website.



# MINUTES OF THE 11 JUNE 2016 GSOC MEETING

**Kathie Sheperd, Recording Secretary  
Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County (GSOC)  
Heritage Museum, Valparaiso, FL, 11 June, 2016**

President Sue Basch welcomed everyone to the June GSOC meeting and welcomed our guest speaker, Ms. Margaret Nichols.

## NEW BUSINESS

Lunch this day would be at Café Bienville on Bayshore Drive, Niceville. The door prize was a set of two books about the U.S. Civil War. Our guest speaker won the door prize!

People Update: Rita Bartmus, who was a past secretary, treasurer, and yearbook coordinator is caring for her husband who has significant health concerns. We wish them well and hope to have Rita back with us again.

The next Board meeting for the GSOC Board (Board members only) will be July 16th. Sue gave a brief overview of the things the Board is working:

1. Due to the growth of the GSOC, the Board feels a larger meeting location is needed in order to accommodate more people and allow us to have readily accessible storage of our scrapbooks, records, etc. The board is in the process of researching suitable locations we could use at no cost, but would have the amenities we require to facilitate growth, conduct meetings and possibly hold special events. Sue will present suggestions to the Membership once all the research is completed.

2. The Board is updating the GSOC Constitution and Bylaws (to be reviewed by the membership in the near future).

The GSOC minutes from the May 2016 meeting were approved as published.

Sue thanked Charlene Grafton for presiding over the May GSOC meeting while she was recovering from surgery. She thanked the Civil War roundtable presenters who helped make the May meeting successful and informative.

Sue asked the GSOC if anyone had seen our GSOC sign that is used on the front of the podium. It is missing.

Cindy Barber stated that BillionGraves.com is promoting a Boy Scouts of America & U.S. Armed Forces national service project on July 30th all across America. Titled, "Finding the Fallen," BillionGraves is looking for volunteers to photograph national & local cemeteries containing American veterans and entering the GPS coordinates of the veteran's graves to the BillionGraves.com website. There are aps for android and I-phone formats. For more information, go to <https://billiongraves.com> finding the fallen.

The following minutes reflect a changed format of the meeting:

## REPORTS

1st VP, Charlene Grafton: Charlene introduced our guest speaker, Margaret Nichols who she has known for many years through the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Margaret also spoke to our group on a previous occasion. Next month, our presenter is Dr Brian Rucker who will be speaking on the topic of West Florida Unionists.

2nd VP, Jon Sheperd: Jon discussed the GSOC membership roster and the family surname list and asked if everyone had received those. He also said to send him any changes or additions to the surname list. Jon received favorable feedback from those items – they were much appreciated.

Treasurer, Phil Hoge: The GSOC has \$2559.89 in the treasury.

Recording Secretary, Kathie Sheperd: Nothing significant to report.

Corresponding Secretary, Val Moreland: Val sent pictures for the current newsletter.

Publicity, Val Moreland: Nothing significant to report.

Newsletter, Jim Young: Jim was unable to attend due to a prior commitment. However, the GSOC noted it was Jim's birthday this week and wished him a happy birthday.

Genealogist, Margaret Harris: Nothing significant to report.

Journal Editor, Kathie Sheperd: We need GSOC members to volunteer and contribute articles for the annual Journal which will be published and distributed this November. Kathie reminded the GSOC that the Journal is approximately 40 pages long and everyone's help is needed to publish. While the theme of this year's Journal is Northwest Florida and the Vietnam War, articles are needed covering local cities/government, personal experiences, life and times of the area, military contributions (from our NW Florida military bases), etc. Please submit your articles to Kathie at [shepfam@cox.net](mailto:shepfam@cox.net) by 1 September 2016.

## OLD BUSINESS:

Bob Basch gave an update on the GSOC Brochure. The brochure has been updated, but publication is on hold until the future GSOC meeting location is determined and approved by the Membership.

## GUEST SPEAKER:

Margaret Nichols gave a fascinating presentation about one branch of her family, titled "Lane Family History." She began her research after visiting Jamestown, VA and recognizing her great-great-great-great-great-great grandfather's name on a commemorative plaque about the Jamestown colonists. This earliest known Lane ancestor was Thomas, born in 1594 in England and his

wife Alice. Seeing this plaque inspired Margaret to research and confirm the documentation records about Thomas Lane and her Lane family line.

Margaret began her research at the Suffolk Co (VA) courthouse and they had the original 1607 deed books with Thomas Lane. From there, she visited the state capital library in Richmond. Thomas Lane's son, Thomas, was born in 1634 and died in 1709 in Surry County VA. She viewed his land patent (dated 1682) which was written in the old English verbiage of the day, making translating the document a bit of a challenge! This Thomas settled in the Isle of Wight (VA) where he died. The third Thomas Lane was born in 1662 in Surry County and died on the Isle of Wight in 1685. His son, Joseph moved to Edgecomb Co, NC, and in 1729, sold shares of his property to King George. This land was opened up for public purchases or made gift by the king.

Other descendants: Joseph Jr (1710-1776) purchased his land, and his son, Jesse Lane (1733-1806), was a Revolutionary War soldier at Cowpens (1781) and other Revolutionary war battle sites. For his efforts, Jesse was gifted land.

Jesse Lane's brother, Joel, is known today as the father of Raleigh and Wake Co, NC. He owned thousands of acres which caused him to be influential in politics and today there is a Joel Lane Museum House (built in 1769) in Raleigh. His home, also known as Wakefield, is the oldest dwelling in Wake County NC (the county containing Raleigh) and contains 18th century artifacts. Lane and Wakefield played a major role in North Carolina's transition from a colony to a state, and Lane was largely responsible in getting Raleigh selected as the state capital. After Jesse, a younger son, Simeon (1771-1851), relocated to Walker Co, AL, in search of affordable land. For the

next 3 generations, the Lane family lived in Walker Co. Austin Thomas Lane (1920-1944) was a WWII marine and survived 3 major battles in the Pacific including Iwo Jima. Austin Lane was Margaret's father.

Margaret observed three things during her research: Tobacco killed the land, forcing resettlement; the 2nd son never inherited the land (and had to move); and during/following war time, the land was used for another purpose.

Margaret is a member of several societies including: the Eucheanna Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Colonists; Descendants of Ancient Planters (Thomas Lane is listed as an approved Planter); Continental Society Daughters of the Indian Wars; Daughters of the American Revolution; and Jamestown Society. She has filed the appropriate Lane lineage papers with these societies.

On an interesting note, Margaret concluded her talk by saying these societies no longer accept bible records as too many of these "records" are forged by people (who purchase old bibles) to gain admission into these types of societies. Other certifiable/official records are required.

#### MEETING CONCLUSION:

The meeting concluded with Sue reminding the GSOC members to please support the Heritage Museum with a small donation or a membership purchase. They greatly need our support.

The next meeting is July 9th, 2016.

Thursday, July 7, 1955 THE OKALOOSA NEWS-JOURNAL

**PIGGLY WIGGLY'S**  
WEEK OF THE WEEK SAVINGS!

Any Brand - CANNED <b>BISCUITS - 10c</b>	JEWEL <b>Shortening 69c</b>	Warner's Grade "A" <b>FRYERS - 39c</b>
SWIFT'S <b>PREM - 39c</b>	KRAFT'S <b>TUNA - 25c</b>	Traditional <b>Ham Steaks 49c</b>

10 Lb. Bag **SUGAR 89c** | Tea 1/2 Lb. Pkts. **59c** | Pork & Fats (Boston Butts)  
**PORK ROAST - 39c Lb.**

GOLDEN YELLOW  
**BANANAS**  
2 Lbs. for **25c**

WAFERS  
**28c Box**

Fresh Florida  
**GRAPEFRUIT**  
5c Each

Guaranteed Ripen  
**WATERMELONS**

Traditional  
**Boneless Stew**  
49c Lb.

**Cube Steak 49c Lb.**

**RICE 3 Lb. bag 29c**

SAVE 75c  
**BATH TOWELS.**  
3 for \$1.00

July 1955, Okaloosa News-Journal, Crestview, FL

## Beaches, Water Sports Seen As Holiday Lures

With the thermometer hovering around the 90 mark, and clear hot skies predicted, most of Okaloosa county will be spending the July 4th holiday around the Gulf or its many bays, engaged in boating, bathing, water skiing, picnicking, fishing and just plain loafing.

Many will be attracted to the Casino on Tower Beach, where the Fort Walton Beach Kiwanis club will hold its annual July 4th festivities, culminating in the selection of Miss Northwest Florida.

### Stores Vary On Holiday Observance

In the evening a laviah display of fireworks will also be presented at the Casino site, which is expected to draw thousands of spectators.

For Eglin personnel, two fireworks displays are also planned, likewise both on the beach. One will be at the NCO Beach club near Destin, and the second at the Officers Beach club between Fort Walton and Destin.

A number of Crestview business establishments, chiefly clothing

Okaloosa News-Journal, July 4, 1957, Crestview, FL